

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-16, and 18-24 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments. Claims 1, 21 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 9, 25, 26, respectively, and claims 9, 25, and 26 have been canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to better describe certain aspects of the subject invention. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 9-14, 25, and 26 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Independent claims 1, 21 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 25, 26, respectively. Claims 2-5, 7, 10-16, 18-20, 22, and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 21, and 23. Consequently, claims 1-5, 7, 10-16, and 18-24 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejection of Claims 23, 24 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 23, 24, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, with regard to the words "dry solid hydrophilic" and "comprising a deliquescent salt." The words "dry solid hydrophilic" has been amended to change to "dry solid inorganic hydrophilic" as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to the words "comprising a deliquescent salt," claim 23 has been amended that the dry solid composition for generating chlorine dioxide gas contains at least two dry solid inorganic hydrophilic materials as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 20, and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Taylor

Claims 1-5, 7, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Taylor (US Patent No. 2,071,091). The rejection is rendered moot since independent claims 1, and 21 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, and 25,

respectively, and claims 2-5, 7, and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. By the amendments, the claims contain the allowable subject matter.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 15, 16, and 18-24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 15, 16, and 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Taylor in view of Aston (US Patent No. 2,482,891). The rejection is rendered moot since independent claims 1, 21 and 23 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 25, 26, respectively, and claims 2-5, 7, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, and 24 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 21, and 23. By the amendments, the claims contain the allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

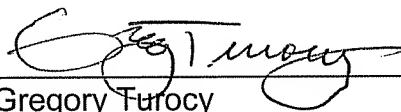
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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